

IN VARIOUS SCIENCE FIELDS

1,325 Radio Arrests

RADIO receiving sets in automobiles may please the man who doesn't like to miss the five to six p. m. program, but they are becoming hated objects of dread to the hijacker, holdup man, and petty thief.

Twenty-five leading cities now have their police cars equipped with sets to receive messages from headquarters on short wavelengths, with the result that in the city of Detroit alone in 1929, 22,598 messages were sent to police cars, of which 8,288 were actual emergencies. As the result of these messages, 1,325 arrests were made, and in many cases the criminal was caught before he had left the scene of the crime.

Radio
Science News-Letter, August 2, 1930

"No Smoking"

"NO SMOKING" as the rule for all tourists to wooded areas where there is danger of forest fires is urged by George D. Pratt, president of the American Forestry Association. The unprecedented drought of recent weeks has left the forests in a highly inflammable condition, so that a single cigarette or burning match carelessly thrown away might start a fire of enormous proportions, he said.

As recent reports show that half of all forest fires are caused by smokers, strict observance of the no smoking rule would greatly reduce the danger. Mr. Pratt suggested that if such cooperation is not given, it may be necessary to close many of the forests to tourists, and this has already been done in several national forests in Washington and Oregon. He stated that the condition is the most critical in years, and that the disastrous fires of 1929, the worst in 19 years, followed drought less severe than the present one.

In the meantime, the U. S. Bureau of Standards is preparing to make experiments towards developing a "non-inflammable" cigarette that will go out as soon as discarded. What is needed is some process of accomplishing this without injuring the taste of the cigarette. Efforts made in the past to secure the cooperation of the manufacturers to make their products less of a fire menace were not suc-

cessful, because all the processes suggested affected the taste or raised the cost, and it was feared that sales would be adversely affected.

Forestry
Science News-Letter, August 2, 1930

Elm Disease Here

THE DUTCH elm disease, a fungus blight that has caused serious damage to elm trees in Holland and has spread into other European countries, has been discovered in Ohio. Three trees in Cleveland and one in Cincinnati have been definitely identified as harboring the disease and destroyed.

Its symptoms are sudden wilting, followed by yellowing and dropping of the leaves. Death of the tree follows, either at once or after a few years of struggle. No cure is known.

The disease is caused by a fungus known as *Graphium ulmi*. It is related to other fungi already known in this country, which have made themselves more or less troublesome as timber stainers, but so far not as killers of trees.

The Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station at Wooster, Ohio, has established a laboratory for the study of the elm disease. The scientists in charge desire to have specimen branches of any elm trees showing suspicious symptoms sent to them.

Plant Pathology
Science News-Letter, August 2, 1930

Florida Fruit

FLORIDIANS are spraying ardently and hopefully this summer, with the aim of ending or at least strongly modifying the federal fruit fly quarantine by autumn. Secretary of Agriculture Hyde recently intimated that unless events took an unexpectedly unfavorable turn a modification in the regulations might be looked for, and this has encouraged growers, even those who were skeptical about the very existence of the pest, to take part in the eradication campaign. The Florida Clearing House has offered to distribute, free of cost, the necessary spray materials.

Entomology
Science News-Letter, August 2, 1930

Influenza

ABOUT 250,000 deaths resulted from influenza epidemics in this country between January, 1920 and the middle of 1929, the U. S. Public Health Service has just reported.

This total is nearly half that of deaths in the United States during the great epidemic of 1918-19. The last epidemic of 1928-29 accounted for about one-fifth of the quarter-million deaths, or 50,000, while another 100,000 occurred during the sharp epidemic of the spring of 1920.

Medicine
Science News-Letter, August 2, 1930

Aluminum Gas Trucks

GASOLINE tank trucks, lightened by tanks made of an aluminum alloy instead of heavier steel, may come into use to permit the transportation of larger pay loads of motor fuel.

But before they can be put on the highway the new 150 gallon aluminum tank compartments must prove their worth in tests which they will be given at New Kensington, Pa., the latter part of this month.

Water will be forced under pressure into one compartment until it bursts. Another will be filled with water and dropped 25 feet. Two will be licked by the flames of a gasoline fire,

Materials Testing
Science News-Letter, August 2, 1930

Also Vitamin "C"

FOR SOME years it has been known that celery contains vitamin A and B. Recent research has shown that it also contains a comparatively large amount of vitamin C, the "fresh fruit" anti-scorbutic vitamin.

This result has been obtained by Dr. Tomiji Matsuoka who carried out his experiments at the Kyoto Imperial University, Japan. Guinea pigs were used as the experimental animals. A basal diet was given on which the guinea pigs all got scurvy. This could be cured or prevented by a small daily ration of celery stalk or leaf.

Physiology
Science News-Letter, August 2, 1930